

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

<i>Application Number</i>	09/992,974
<i>Filing Date</i>	November 19, 2001
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Thomas Birkhoelzer et al
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	2152
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Ramsey Refai
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	P01.0440-01

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on January 17, 2006
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other _____

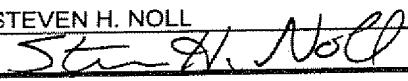
2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other Withdrawal of Appeal

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

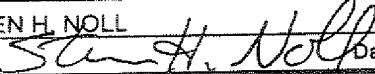
- a. The director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 501519. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed.
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Check in the amount of \$790.00 (RCE Filing fee) enclosed
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO 2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	STEVEN H. NOLL	Registration No. Attorney/Agent	28,982
Signature			
	Date	April 25, 2006	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	STEVEN H. NOLL	Date	April 25, 2006
Signature			

EXHIBIT

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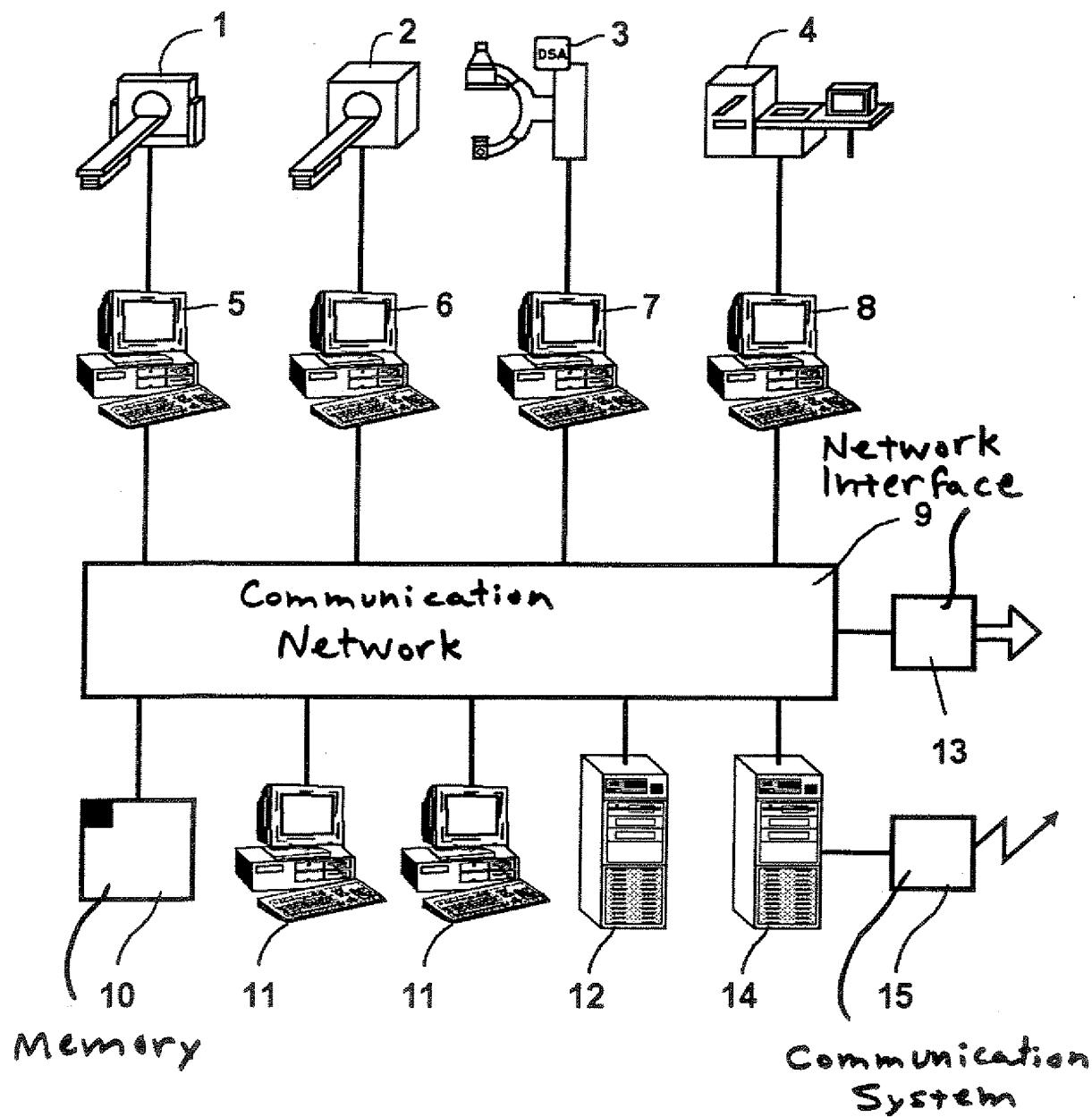
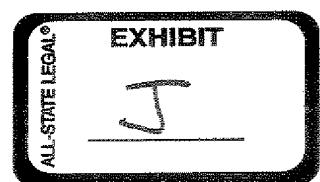


FIG 1



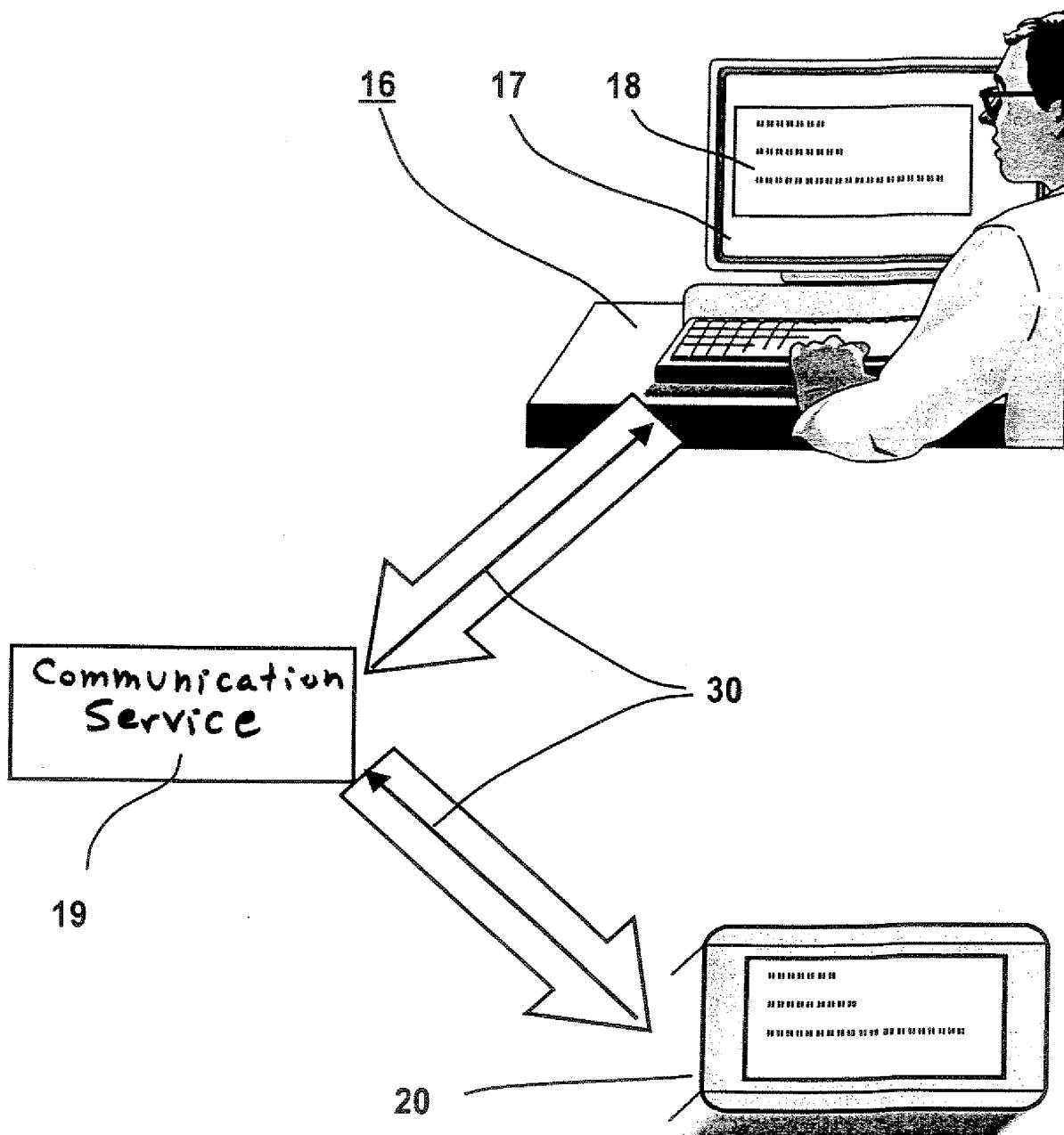


FIG 2

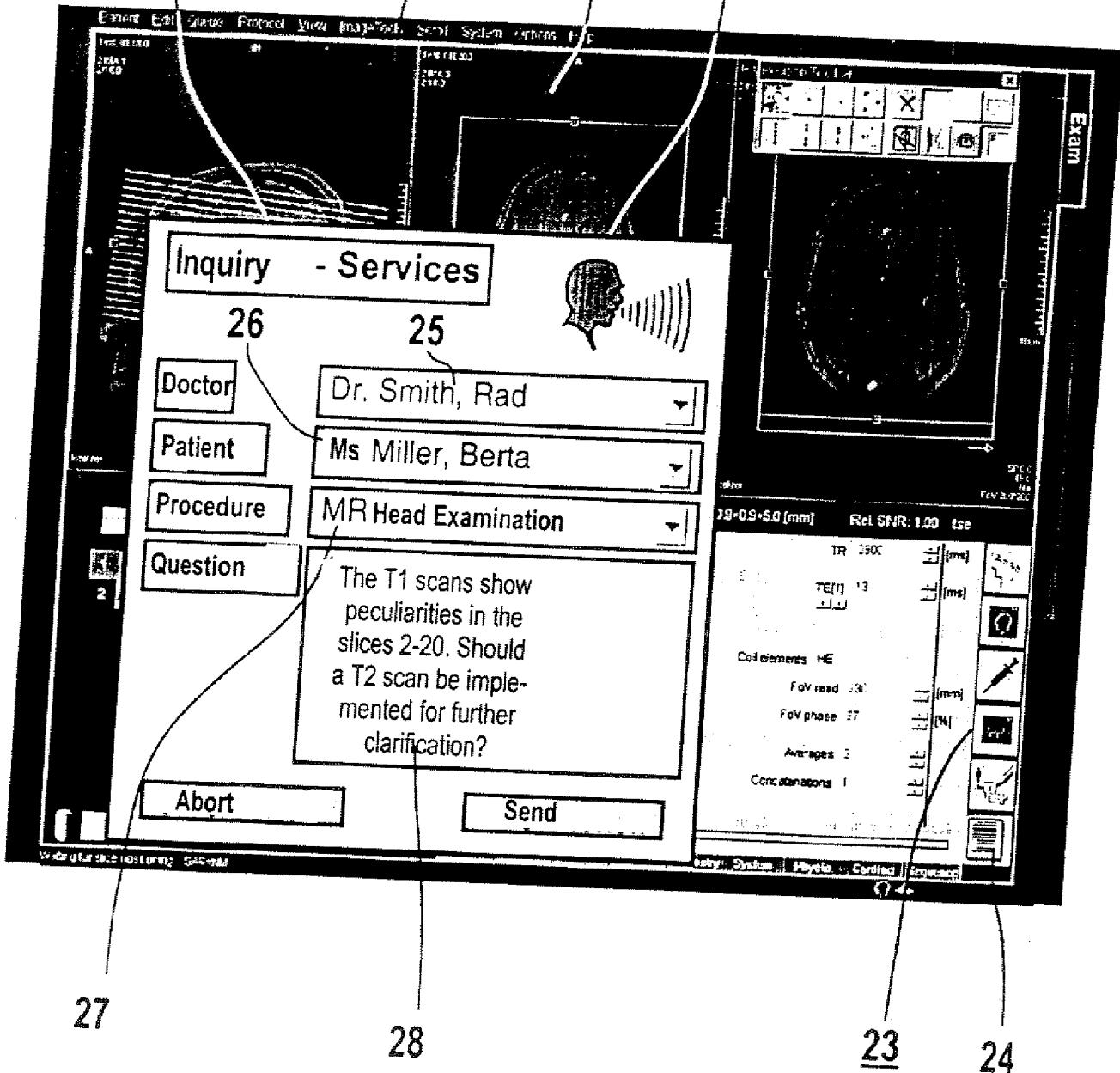


FIG 3